



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Fort Worth District**

# Media Advisory

Release No. CESWF-PA-02-070 Contact: Judy Marsicano

For Release: Immediate 19 Sep 02 Phone: (817) 886-1310

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## **Corps of Engineers celebrates National Public Lands Day at lakes in Texas**

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is commemorating the ninth annual National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 28, at six of its lakes in Texas. Volunteers at each lake will join 50,000 volunteers across America in activities centered around the enhancement of outdoor recreation facilities and the stewardship of public lands. More than \$8 million of needed improvements is expected to be accomplished across the nation in one day.

National Public Lands Day, sponsored by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, Inc., will be conducted at an estimated 350 sites this year. Americans will join together to make improvements to the nation's largest resource and to honor the work and sacrifice of the Civil Conservation Corps, a cadre of men and women organized over 70 years ago by President Roosevelt. The CCC built over 800 national and state parks, planted almost 4 billion trees, built parks, roads and hiking trails, and laid interstate telephone lines which became the basis for the Internet.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with just three sites and 700 volunteers. Today, the event has evolved to a partnership of federal, state and local land management agencies. Last year, nearly 45,000 volunteers contributed \$6.5 million worth of work at 277 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The Corps of Engineers has participated in the event since 1996 and has attracted more volunteers nationwide than any other agency. The Corps manages nearly 12 million acres of public land, four million of which is water.

- 30 -

Editor's Note: The following page outlines NPLD activities at six Corps lakes in Texas.

Events Planned for National Public Lands Day  
September 28, 2002

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Bardwell	Local scout troops and other volunteers will help place surface material on the Waxahachie Creek Park nature trail. Volunteers will conduct a lakeshore cleanup at designated areas around the lake and restore a retaining wall in High View Park. Please contact James Murphy at 972-875-5711, for more details.
Granger	Trail restoration work will be done and wood duck boxes will be installed. Call Jennifer Schultz at 512-859-2668 for information.
Lewisville	<p>Boy Scouts will be doing work at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area. LLELA consists of approximately 2,000 acres of leased land located directly behind Lewisville Lake Dam and is used for environmental education and research, wildlife management and habitat restoration. LLELA is a consortium of Texas A&amp;M University, University of North Texas, Texas Women's University and the Lewisville Independent School District. This event is not open to the public.</p> <p>Cross Timbers Equestrian Trail Association will work on established horse trails in Sycamore Bend Park.</p> <p>"Explore America's Backyard", an outdoor environmental fair, will be held at Westlake Park, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.</p> <p>For more information, contact Melissa Ealey at 972-434-1666.</p>
Sam Rayburn	Work will be done on the equestrian development in Ebenezer Park which includes developing a 1-mile long gateway trail leading from Corps property onto U.S. Forest Service property. Some equestrian amenities will also be added to a portion of the park including corrals, hitching post, utility tables, signage and rider access points. The event will begin at 7 a.m. and will end at approximately 2:30 p.m. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for volunteers with a recognition ceremony at the conclusion of the event. Call David LaRue at 409-384-5716.
Somerville	A trail workday is planned. Call Ernest Eberle at 979-596-1491 for location or other information.
Whitney	Dive team and other certified divers will remove and recycle all manmade debris from the bottom of the lake and beach areas. Event will take place beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Walling Bend Park. Only volunteer divers will be allowed in the park that day. Contact Brady Dempsey at 254-694-3189.